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THERMÆ ROMÆ

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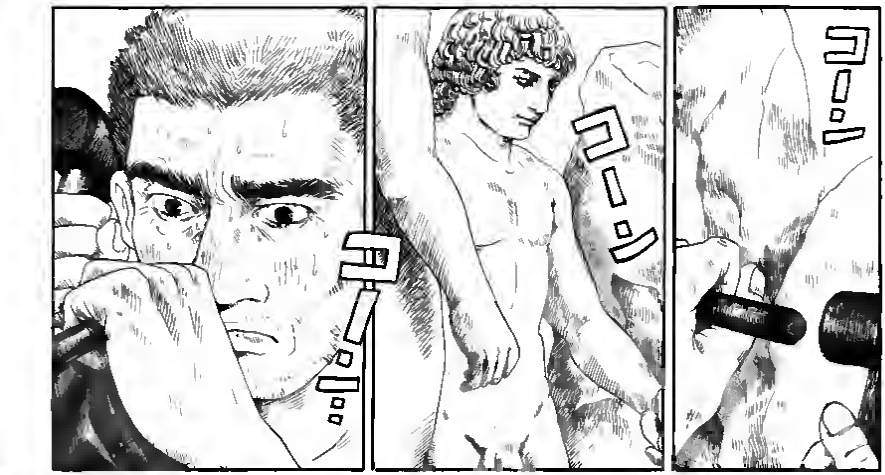
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130 A.D.
Rome
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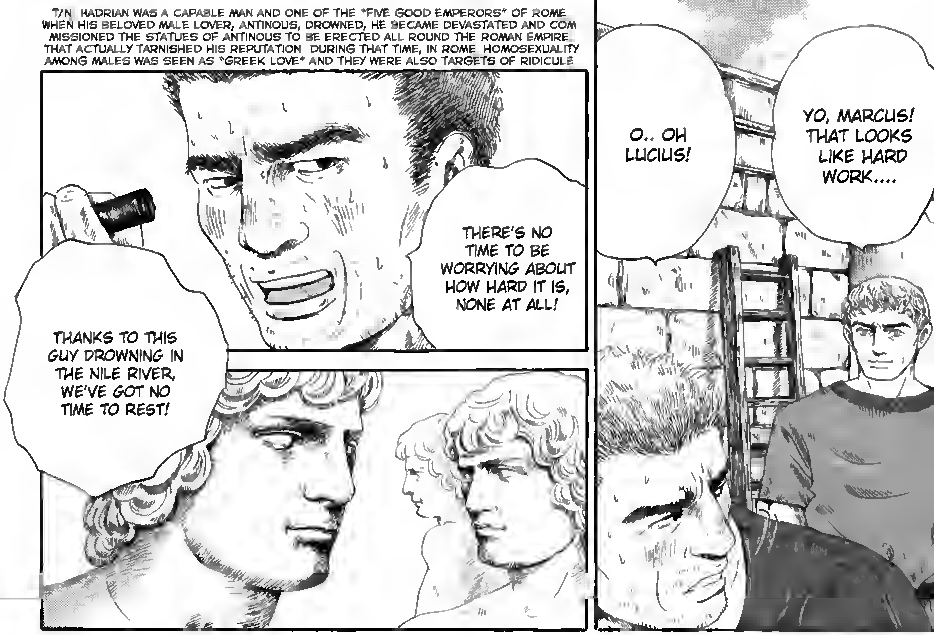
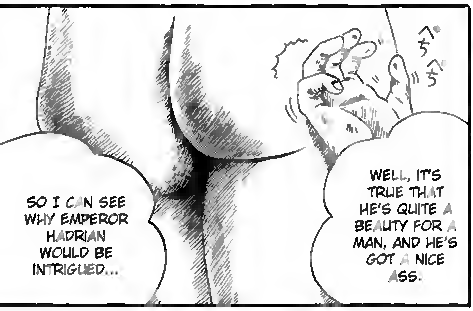
Chapter 3

T/N: HADRIAN WAS A CAPABLE MAN AND ONE OF THE "FIVE GOOD EMPERORS" OF ROME WHEN HIS BELOVED MALE LOVER, ANTINOUS, DROWNED, HE BECAME DEVASTATED AND COMMISSIONED THE STATUES OF ANTINOUS TO BE ERECTED ALL ROUND THE ROMAN EMPIRE. THAT ACTUALLY TARNISHED HIS REPUTATION. DURING THAT TIME, IN ROME, HOMOSEXUALITY AMONG MALES WAS SEEN AS "GREEK LOVE" AND THEY WERE ALSO TARGETS OF RIDICULE


THERE'S NO TIME TO BE WORRYING ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS, NONE AT ALL!
THANKS TO THIS GUY DROWNING IN THE NILE RIVER, WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO REST!
O.. OH LUCIUS!
YO, MARCUS! THAT LOOKS LIKE HARD WORK....



THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.. WE WANT THIS ANTINOUS, THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN LOVED, TO BE PLACED WITHIN THE EMPIRE.
HUFF
I KNOW, BUT IT GETS REALLY TIRING CARVING JUST THIS DAY AFTER DAY!!

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU TAKE ME THERE TODAY AS WELL?...
EH? SURE... JUST PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT
IT'S ALMOST 8 O'CLOCK..
THE BATH SHOULD NOT BE CROWDED NOW
BUT ISN'T IT THE MASTER YOU CARE FOR?
WELL YEAH
IT'S JUST SO TIRING!
AFTER GETTING THIS WORN OUT, ALL I WANT IS TO GO AND TAKE A BATH!
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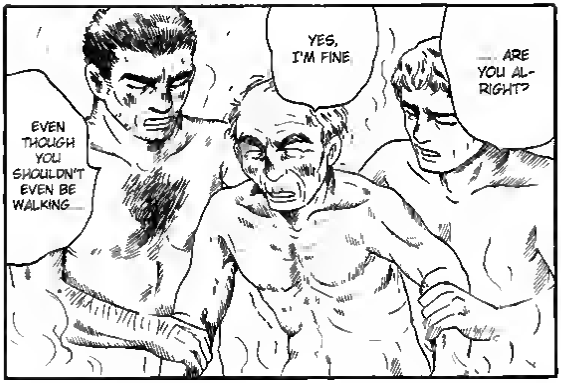
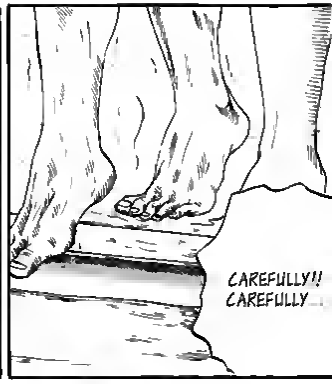
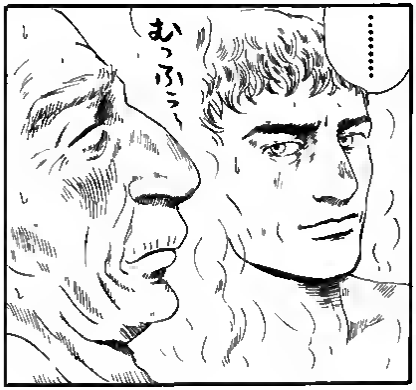
ALRIGHT, I'LL GO ALONG AS WELL!
AND YOU CAN'T CHANGE JUST HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO SOAK IN THE HOT WATER


EVEN THOUGH YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE WALKING...
YES, I'M FINE
...ARE YOU ALRIGHT?


CAREFULLY!! CAREFULLY...

AFU~~
FUAAAAHH

I KNOW THAT.
AH LOOK, THERE'S A STEP OVER THERE SO BE CAREFUL.
.....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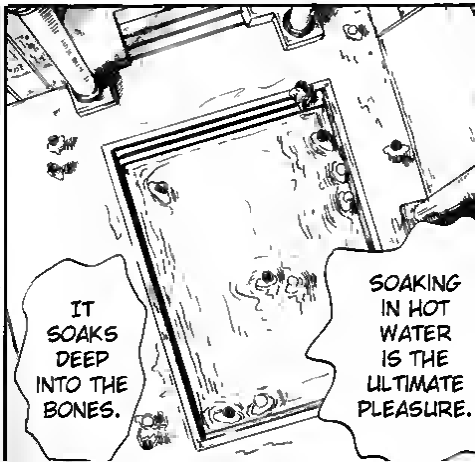
IT SOAKS DEEP INTO THE BONES.
SOAKING IN HOT WATER IS THE ULTIMATE PLEASURE.

UNLESS YOU'RE RICH OR A NOBLEMAN, YOU WON'T HAVE A BATH IN YOUR HOUSE, YOU KNOW?
IT'S PLEASANT ENOUGH TO HAVE A BATH AT HOME, WITHOUT COMING HERE TO TELMAE...
He's saying quite lofty things...
WHETHER IT'S AT THE GYMNASIUM OR THE POOL, CHILLED WATER BATHING ROOMS ARE UNNECESSARY...
FOR AN OLD MAN LIKE ME, I'M SATISFIED AS LONG AS THERE IS A BATH TO WARM THE BODY IN.
..... IT DOESN'T SEEM NECESSARILY IMPOSSIBLE, BUT....
A BATH WITHIN THE PROPERTY OF A HOME...
.....
I'LL BRING YOU TO THIS BATH ANY TIME!!
.....I WAS JUST THINKING IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE ONE!
.....
I DIDN'T SAY I WANTED ONE.
AH...!! WITHOUT NOTICING, IT FELL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE BATH.
I CAN'T SEE MY BODY SCRUBBER!?
...HUH!?
EH!?

じゃぶん
OI!
I'LL GET IT, LUCIUS!!
AH, WELL THEN I WILL...
ボコ
ボコ
ボコ
IT'S BEEN A FEW HUNDRED YEARS, BUT THIS PRIMITIVE ITEM HASN'T EVOLVED AT ALL....
FIRST, OIL IS RU■■ED INTO THE ■ODY AND SAND IS LIGHTLY DUSTED ON TOP. THEN THE STRIGIL IS USED TO RU■ IT OFF.
A METAL BODY SCRUB-BER, THE "STRIGIL".

THE SURFACE OF THE WATER IS COVERED BY SOME-THING..!!
WHAT IS THIS?
HM?
IN THIS AGE, AN EASIER METHOD TO USE THE STRIGIL SHOULD BE DEVELOPED, BUT...
.....
A WALL !?
AND, IT FEELS LIKE THE BATH HAS GOTTEN NAR-ROW-ER...
UGH... IT IS GETTING HARDER TO BREATH
ゴボボボ
ブボボボ
IS THIS MARCUS' DOING?!
DOES HE INTEND TO PLAY A JOKE BY DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!?
AND IT'S GETTING HOTTER AND HOTTER.

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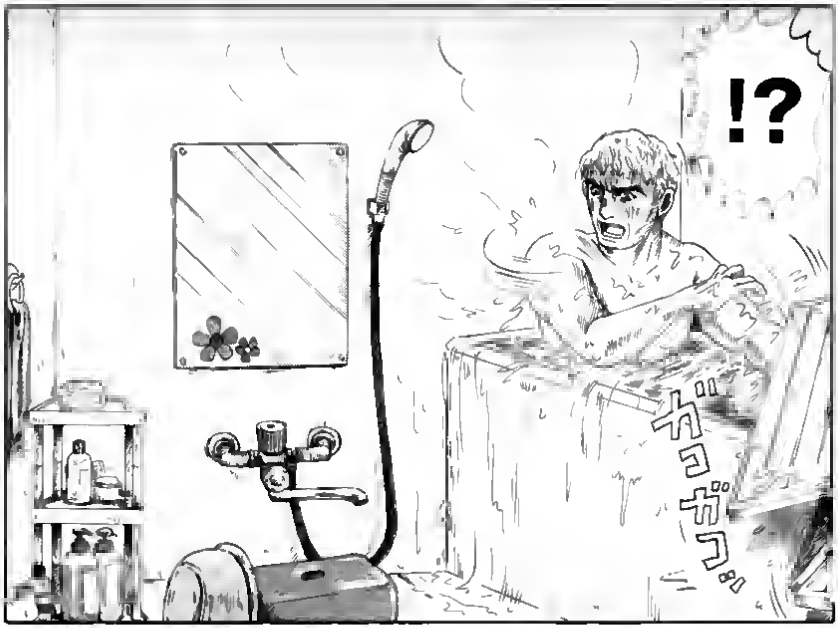
ザザーン
BUHA
AHH
すこやか生活
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ
MARCUS
!!
ハァ
MAR..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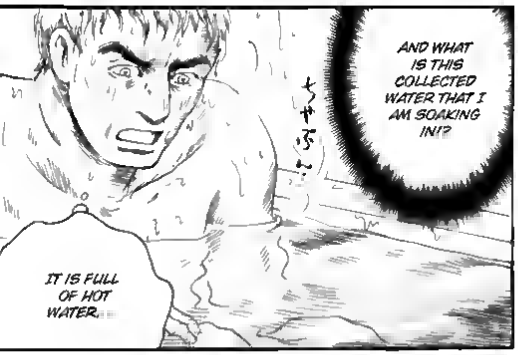
IN THAT WORLD !?
COULD IT BE, I'M AGAIN
バス
ヒカヒカ!
お風呂の洗い方


AND WHAT IS THIS COLLECTED WATER THAT I AM SOAKING IN!?
ちゃぷ…
IT IS FULL OF HOT WATER.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE !?
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ハァッ
ハァッ

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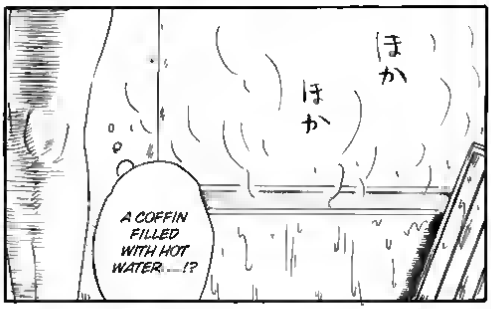
じゃばっ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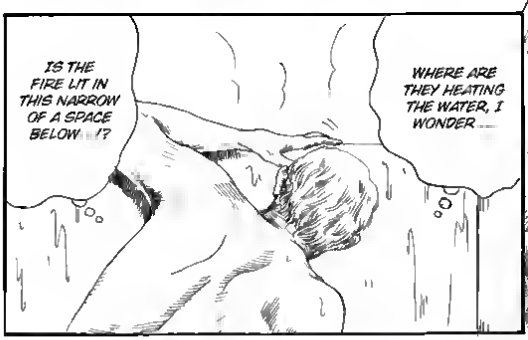
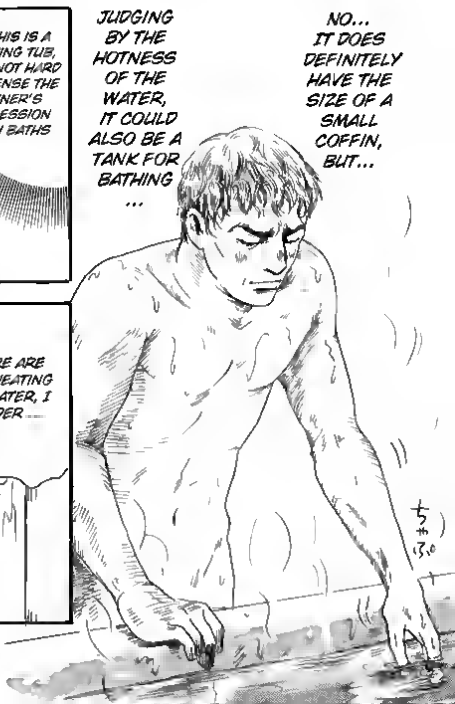
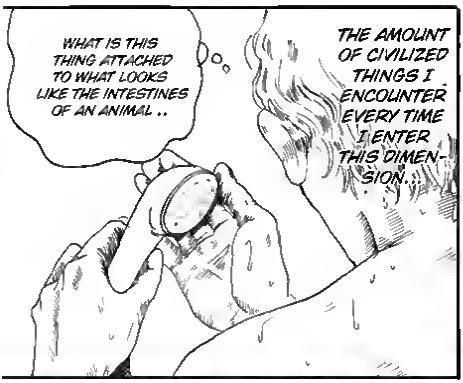
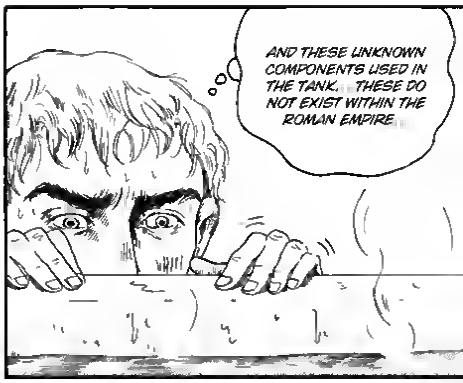
ほか
A COFFIN FILLED WITH HOT WATER...!?

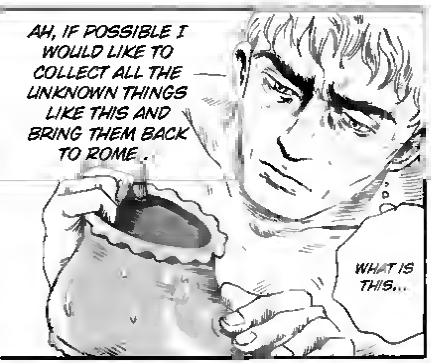
IF HIS DESIRE ISN'T THAT STRONG, HE MIGHT NOT WANT TO HAVE A BATH IN A SPACE NO MORE THAN THAT OF A GRAVE...
IF THIS IS A BATHING TUB, IT IS NOT HARD TO SENSE THE OWNER'S OBSESSION WITH BATHS

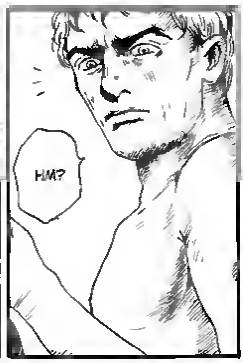

IS THE FIRE LIT IN THIS NARROW OF A SPACE BELOW...!?
WHERE ARE THEY HEATING THE WATER, I WONDER...

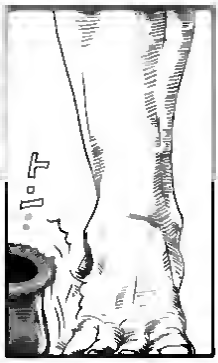

JUDGING BY THE HOTNESS OF THE WATER, IT COULD ALSO BE A TANK FOR BATHING...
NO... IT DOES DEFINITELY HAVE THE SIZE OF A SMALL COFFIN, BUT...


WHAT IS THIS THING ATTACHED TO WHAT LOOKS LIKE THE INTESTINES OF AN ANIMAL ..
THE AMOUNT OF CIVILIZED THINGS I ENCOUNTER EVERY TIME I ENTER THIS DIMENSION...


AND THESE UNKNOWN COMPONENTS USED IN THE TANK... THESE DO NOT EXIST WITHIN THE ROMAN EMPIRE


AH, IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE TO COLLECT ALL THE UNKNOWN THINGS LIKE THIS AND BRING THEM BACK TO ROME .
WHAT IS THIS...


HM?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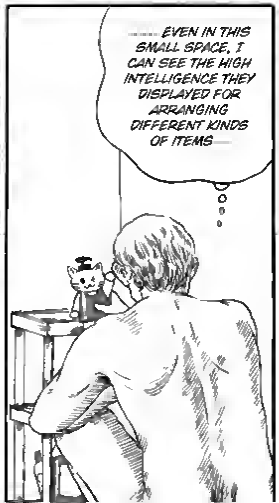
AGAIN, MY PRIDE AS A ROMAN IS SHAKEN...


..... EVEN IN THIS SMALL SPACE, I CAN SEE THE HIGH INTELLIGENCE THEY DISPLAYED FOR ARRANGING DIFFERENT KINDS OF ITEMS

EVEN THOUGH THEY APPEAR RIDICULOUS AT FIRST SIGHT, THESE THINGS MOST DEFINITELY HAVE SOME AMAZING PROPERTIES WITHIN.
ジャ ジャ

PLACING IT LIKE THIS, THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER WON'T GO DOWN AS EASILY.
ガタ
IN ESSENCE IT IS USED SO THAT THE HEAT OF THE WATER DOES NOT ESCAPE OUTSIDE, RIGHT...!?
EVEN THIS, WHICH COVERS THE SURFACE OF THE TANK...
NOT A SINGLE PERSON HAS THOUGHT OF THIS METHOD
WITHIN ROME, WHICH SHOULD BE THE GREAT LAND OF CIVILIZATION
KUH
A HOT BATH WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR A WHILE...
EVEN WITHOUT A BOILER, IF THE HOT WATER IS PLACED DIRECTLY INTO THE TANK AND A LID PLACED ON TOP LIKE THIS
BOTH THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND I WILL BE FINISHED AT THIS RATE.
SO, GRANDPA...
..... WHAT A MESS.
AS AN ARCHITECT OF BATHS, I THOUGHT THAT I HAD POURED OUT ALL MY KNOWLEDGE AND EFFORT INTO MY WORK, BUT THAT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN FOOLISH ARROGANCE.

I AM MICHIKO... GRANDPA
OKAY, OKAY, I GOT IT, MS. YONEKO.
SO PLEASE HAVE HIM PUT YOU IN THE BATH
THE HELPER WILL BE HERE SOON
ハァ…。
OKAY, OKAY, SEE YOU, MS. MATSUYO
WELL, I'M OFF!!
ガラ
はぇ～
SHALL I TAKE A BATH BEFORE HE GETS HERE?..
そそ
そそ

WELL, HAHAHA, I COMMEND YOU ON COMING THIS FAR TO FIND WORK!!
CAVE!!
(BE CAREFUL)
WAH!!
AND AMAZINGLY, TODAY'S HELPER IS A FOREIGNER!!
WHAT, YOU WERE ALREADY HERE, MR. HELPER?
OH!?

AND SEEMS TO BE THE OWNER OF THIS COFFIN-SHAPED BATH.
IT APPEARS HE IS QUITE AN OLD-AGED MAN...
THAT WAS DANGEROUS, QUITE DANGEROUS.
BENE HABET?
(ARE YOU ALRIGHT?)
SO BASICALLY, A BATH LIKE THIS WOULD BE GOOD FOR MARCUS' MASTER AS WELL...?
EXCUSE ME...
.....
SO THEN, PLEASE RINSE OFF MY BACK!!

じゃぶ
SCOOP THE WATER LIKE THIS
スッ
……
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ONE MORE BUCKET'S WORTH... AND
……
じゃばん
AND PLEASE POUR IT ON MY BACK!! GOT IT?!
I SEE. SO IN THE CASE OF ONE NOT EXERCISING, THEY PROMOTE BETTER BLOOD CIRCULATION LIKE THIS.
THAT'S GOOD!!
OHH!!
ガー
YES, JUST LIKE THAT.
HUH?
TE ABIU VARE POSSUM?
(SHALL I HELP YOU?)

!!
.....
I'LL FIRST RUB OFF WHERE I CAN, SO PLEASE HELP ME WITH MY BACK, MR. HELPER
OKAY, NEXT IS RUBBING OF THE DIRT...
A CLOTH TO RUB OFF THE DIRT!?
YOU NEED TO SEND MONEY BACK TO YOUR FAMILY AT HOME, RIGHT?
THI... THIS IS....!?
MR. HELPER, THIS MUST BE HARD WORK FOR YOU TOO...
AND WITH JUST ONE STRIP OF CLOTH, THIS MUCH WASTE COMES OFF THE OLD MAN'S DRY SKIN...
...SO, MR. HELPER! MY BACK, PLEASE.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING YOU'RE UNACCUSTOMED TO, LIKE THIS...
HE HAS NEITHER SWEAT AFTER EXERCISE, NOR APPLIED ANY OIL TO THE SKIN, BUT STILL IMMEDIATELY USES THE CLOTH TO RUB OFF DIRT...

ボロ ボロー
IT COMES RIGHT OFF!!
OWO WOWW
GOOD GOOD
JUST WHAT KIND OF THREAD IS THIS CLOTH MADE FROM?
WELL THEN, I'LL WASH MY HEAD NEXT!
...
...IF YOU OVERDO IT EVEN THE YOUNG SKIN WILL COME OFF...
HA HA HA
I PLACE IT ON MY HEAD LIKE THIS...
...
SO I USE THIS SHAMPOO HAT!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH HAIR, BUT THE SHAMPOO STINGS MY EYES

LIKE THIS.
A CROWN!? IS THIS OLD-MAN THE LEADER OF SOME CLAN!?
JUST LIKE THIS.
RINSE IT OFF WITH THIS
THEN
I WASH MY HAIR, LIKE THIS
USING MILITARY FORCE TO GAIN TERRITORY IS EASY... HOWEVER, CIVILIZATION CIVILIZATION IS NOT SO EASY...
LOOK? MY FACE ISN'T WET AT ALL, RIGHT?
THEN AFTER DOING ALL THIS ONCE, IT'S FINALLY TIME TO GET IN THE BATH TUB!!

HUH...? HELPER...
...MR. HELPER?
HOW IS IT? WERE YOU ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW I DO IT?
IT'S REALLY NOT DIFFICULT AT ALL
AHH! WHAT'S WRONG!?
DID YOU GET LIGHT-HEADED FROM DOING THESE THINGS THAT YOU'RE NOT USED TO? I'LL BRING YOU A DRINK NOW
UWAH, THIS IS BAD!!
ARE YOU FEELING ILL!? ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

I KNOW IT ISN'T TIME TO BE ACCEPTING THIS FACT MEEKLY...
THE FEELING OF UTTER DEFEAT THAT I AM MADE TO FEEL EVERY TIME I COME TO THIS WORLD
WAIT FOR ME.
ガラ
IT IS NOT AN EASY TASK TO RECOVER!!
MR. HELPER, ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
YOU SHOULD FEEL BETTER IF YOU DRINK THIS!!
I'VE BROUGHT A REFRESHING BEVERAGE!!
ZAPP
DRAFT
ZAPP
KNOCK IT BACK!! COME ON!!

DO YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER AFTER THAT!?
HOW IS IT, HUH!?
WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE? JUST WHAT ON EARTH
....IT HIT ME HARD!!
プハ

THEIR SKILL FOR THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE IS FAR BEYOND THAT OF ROMANS ...!!
IF ROME COULD RETAIN THIS COUNTRY AS A TERRITORY OF THE EMPIRE ... HUMANS LIKE US WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE OUR JOBS TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM....

SOME-THING....
IF I DON'T DO SOME-THING...
IT WAS QUITE DIFFICULT BEING MADE TO DO THESE THINGS YOU AREN'T USED TO YEA?
IT'S NO GOOD LIKE THIS...
ハハハ
SHIT
ぐぐぐ
OHHH

ARE YOU AWAKE?
LUCIUS!!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? OI!?
……
がばっ
……
A WASH CLOTH
WHAT IS THAT ?
JEEZ, MAKING US WORRY LIKE THAT!!
YOU IDIOT, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED!

EH!!
COME MARCUS!! WE'RE GOING TO BUILD A BATH FOR YOUR MASTER!!
AH, OI LUCIUS!

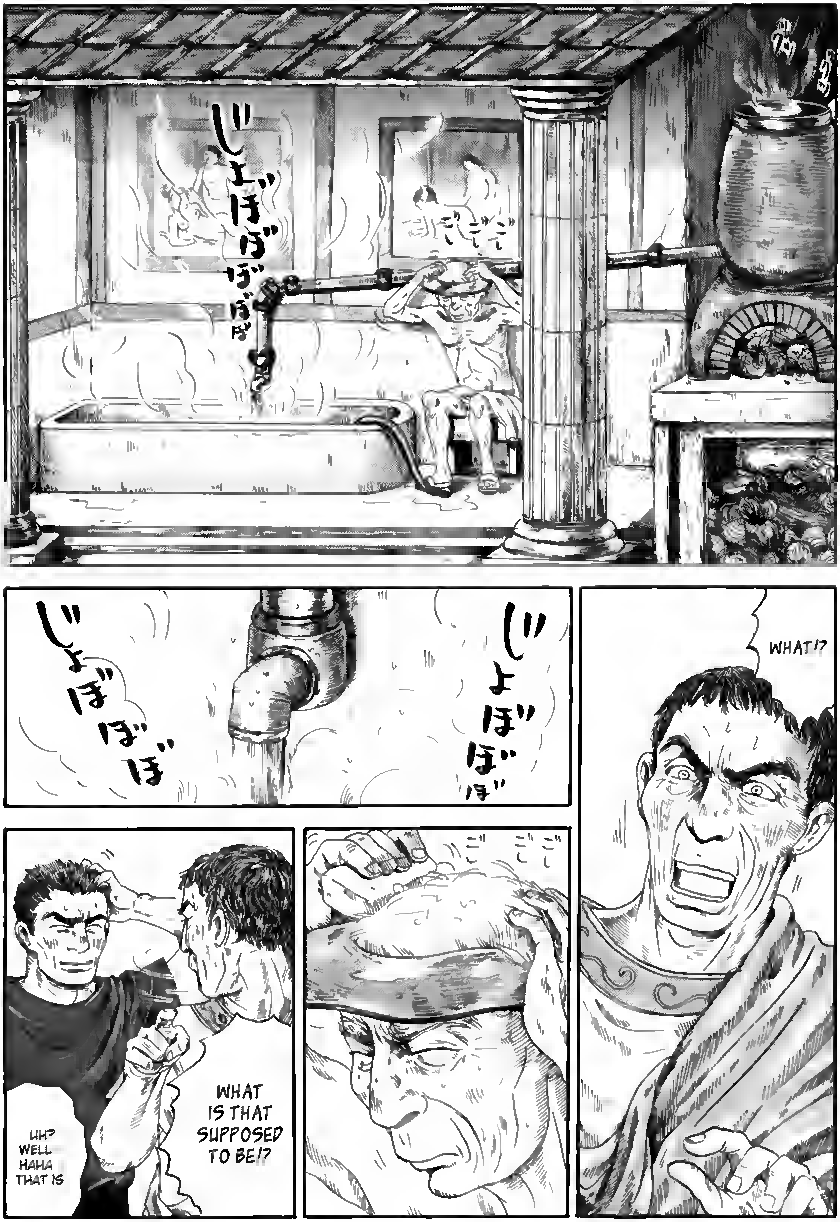
WE HAVE COME TO SEE THE STONE SCULPTURE THAT WAS REQUESTED ON ORDERS FROM THE EMPEROR CURRENTLY ABROAD IN EGYPT.
MARCUS PIETORAS!! WE ARE MESSENGERS OF THE EMPEROR...

JUST WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING?....
JUST WHAT..

MARCUS PIETORAS
AHH!! WHAT A NICE SUR-PRISE...

MARCUS PIETORAS

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ABOUT THE ANTINOUS STONE SCULPTURES REQUESTED FOR THE EMPEROR!?
THE THINGS IN YOUR HANDS ARE NOT THOSE CHISELS YOU NORMALLY USE FOR CARVING STONES... YOU'RE ACTUALLY HOLDING A PAIR OF SCISSORS AND A PIECE OF CUT LEATHER SHAPED IN ROUNDED FORM...
UMM.. THIS IS.. WELL... IT'S...
HE HEHE
20 SCULPTURES, AS REQUESTED...
AH, YES.. THE STONE SCULPTURES OF MASTER ANTINOUS ARE ALREADY FINISHED!
HM!?
THERE ARE REALLY 20, YES!?
LOOK, OVER THERE!!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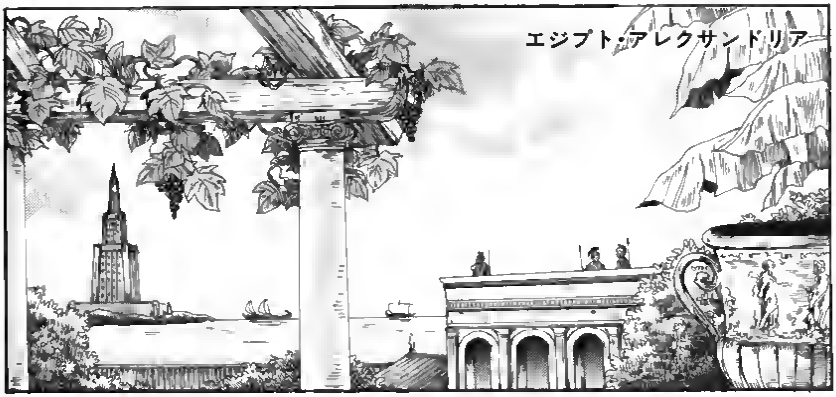
ごごご
じょぼぼぼぼ
WHAT!?
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE!?
UH? WELL HAHA THAT IS

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS AN ARCHITECT OF BATHS,
AND HE THINKS OF THE STRANGEST THINGS...
MY MASTER HAS BAD BACK AND LEGS, AND IT WAS VERY TIRING FOR HIM TO GO ALL THE WAY TO TELMAE TO BATHE. SO MY FRIEND BUILT THIS ESPECIALLY FOR HIM.....
A SIMPLIFIED BATH DESIGNED FOR HOME USE.....
IT IS A BATH.
.....
しゃこ
しゃこ
HE USES THAT THING WITH LOTS OF HOLES OPENED AT THE TIP OF A COW'S INTESTINES TO RINSE OFF WITH RAIN LIKE WATER...
...BOTH ARE ITEMS THAT MAKE YOU WANT TO SELL THEM, RIGHT?
わー!?
I MUST DEFINITELY INFORM THE EMPEROR OF THIS!!
AND HE ALSO CAME UP WITH THAT BRIM OF LEATHER USED TO AVOID SOAP BUBBLES ON HIS HEAD. IT'S QUITE CONVENIENT!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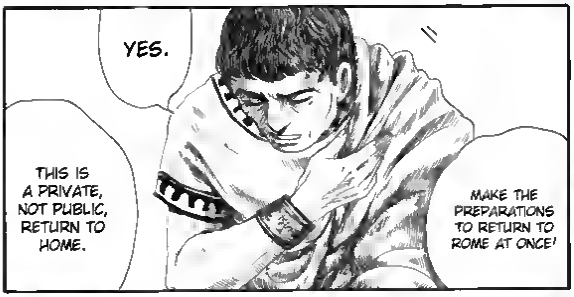

YES.
THIS IS A PRIVATE, NOT PUBLIC, RETURN TO HOME.
MAKE THE PREPARATIONS TO RETURN TO ROME AT ONCE!

.....

THERE IS A PERSON THAT YOU MUST MEET IN ROME, NO MATTER WHAT!
YES!!

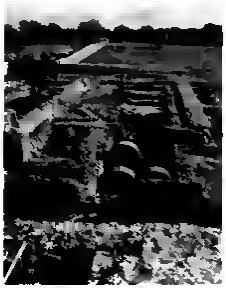
Thermæ Romæ Chapter 3
by
Clockwork Lies Scanlations

Rome and bathhouses, my love

Just when did Japanese first begin to place personal baths within their homes? It seems that they have existed since a good while in the past, but the fact that there are public baths shows that there were also many people who did not have personal ones in their homes. Rome was exactly the same. I wrote of it earlier, but in Rome, with pride in its population of 1 million people, only a selected number oe people with lavish homes were able to own personal baths. As well as this, Romans bathed three times, in the order of a spring water bath, a hot water bath, and a cold water bath. So without these three types they could not call it a "bath". Given this, we can see that only those with a really big home could make the wish eor a personal bath come true. Then, whenever one would decide to take a bath, there were necessary preparations to be made.

For the Japanese, a bucket, soap, and wash cloth are items that would, at the very least, be necessary. But what did Romans bring from their homes? These were the thin metal spatula-like strigil mentioned in chapter 3, and a jar of scented oils to be rubbed on the body. It seems that those with a little more class also brought along items to care for their nails.

If one goes to the baths, even if, for example, they did not have their own strigil or a private slave to scrub their body, one could ask the scrubbers that worked at the baths to do it for them. There were also massage experts. Well, even if one went with nothing on them, they wouldn't be troubled.



A site showing a bath built in a private housing. This was also the place for the hypocaust (Vidigueira-Portugal)

The private bath of a wealthy family in ancient Rome (Vidigueira-Portugal)

Speaking of which, it was said that since 2000 years ago, Europeans tend to make extra effort to remove the dirt on their bodies whenever they take a bath. This really made me wonder, after living here for many years, I have never seen anything but a brush or sponge being sold to scrub off dirt. I don't believe scrubbing with a soft sponge or brush can take off the dirt, and so I feel that these people are merely using soap to make the dirt on the upper layers of their skin clean.

I would definitely like to try out this metallic strigil one day myself, but unless I were to secretly take one out of a European museum, they don't sell it anywhere. If I really wanted it, I would have no choice but to ask a smith to make one for me. Considering that it was used from the Grecian times for many centuries onward, I believe that it would truly feel good to have yourself rubbed with it regardless of its hefty appearance.

Well what to say? I just feel that the period when the strigil was used was more 'clean' in terms of sanitation for health. Really.

A Nail Care Set

A Balm Container

Dirt Scrubber